In contrast to the teachings of JP '250 and JP '711, the claimed invention desirably prevents and reduces the occurrence of black spots during image formation. This effect is not disclosed or suggested in any of the cited references. In particular, the prevention or reduction of black spots is not the same as the prevention or reduction of fogging (such as disclosed at paragraph [0045] of JP '711).

The black spot phenomenon is different from the fogging phenomenon. Specifically, fogging occurs when the surface potential of a photoreceptor decreases to almost the same as that of the developing bias, with the concomitant result of background development. In contrast, a black spot is formed when the potential of a localized point of the photoreceptor is decreased, while the potential of the other areas of the photoreceptor remains relatively constant. A black spot is formed when the point is developed with the toner.

The present inventors have found that the sulfur antioxidants required by the claims not only improve potential stability but also prevent or reduce the occurrence of black spots, and this is not disclosed or suggested in any of the cited references.

In the JP '250 reference, specific organosulfur antioxidants are added to the charge transport layer to improve the potential stability and ozone resistance of the photoreceptor. According to JP '250, the sulfur antioxidants prevent variation of the potential during a running or long-term image formation (i.e., it improves potential stability). In addition, according to JP '250, the sulfur antioxidants prevent the deterioration of the photoreceptor due to ozone exposure and photodegradation. JP '250 [0019]. As noted at paragraph [0045] of JP '711, fogging is a problem when the surface potential of the photoreceptor is low. Thus, although it is possible that one might expect the addition of a sulfur antioxidant to make the photoreceptor potential more stable and reduce the fogging phenomenon, one would not expect any effect on the formation of black spots. The occurrence of fogging is not equivalent to the occurrence of black spots. Since record data in the present application

shows that the claimed invention inheres a clear reduction in the occurrence of black spots, and this desirable effect cannot be gleaned from the applied references, it is believed that even *prima facie* obviousness is overcome.

Neither JP '250 nor JP '711 teach that black spots could be prevented or reduced, and this deficiency is not cured by the addition of the secondary references. Accordingly, for these and the above reasons and the data already of record, the rejections should be withdrawn, and this application should be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application or otherwise wish to discuss the case, she is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed U.S. representative by telephone at number given below. The representative would be happy to provide any additional assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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